

Yuan Tseh Lee to Be President of the International Council for Science

Yuan Tseh Lee, a Nobel Prize-winning chemist from Taipei, China, has been elected president of the International Council for Science (ICSU). A world leader in the field of chemical dynamics, Lee was elected by representatives of ICSU's 114 National Members and 29 International Scientific Unions at the 29th General Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique, 21-24 October 2008. He will take up the appointment in April 2010 and will succeed the current president, Catherine Bréchnac, in October 2011.

Lee was born and educated in Taipei before moving to the USA where he obtained a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1965. In the ensuing years, his career flourished, both as a creative scientist and an inspiring teacher. In 1986, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his seminal



Yuan Tseh Lee.

contribution to the development of reaction dynamics—a new field of research in chemistry at the time. His use of crossed molecular beams allowed the study of complex reaction mechanisms beyond the capability of previous methods. Lee returned home in 1994, taking up the position as president of the Academy of Sciences in Taipei. Under his 12-year leadership the institution was transformed into a world-class research center, attracting scholars and creative young scientists from around the world.

His achievements have been recognized with many awards and professional memberships, which include the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the

Academy of Sciences for the Developing World. He has been involved with ICSU for 15 years and served on the Standing Committee on Freedom in the Conduct of Science from 1996 to 2005.

“I am honored and excited to be elected the next president of ICSU, an organization that has been at the forefront of international science for more than 75 years,” said Lee. “As a child I was inspired by Madame Curie who believed that scientific knowledge belonged to all mankind.* It is my strong belief that ICSU will pave the way in ensuring that scientific knowledge is available to all—a critical factor in providing the solutions for sustainable development, climate change mitigation, global human health issues, and alleviating poverty.”

 www.icsu.org

*An interview with Lee was published in the November 2008 issue of *Chemical Education International*. See page 21 for more information.

Leading Scientific Organization Affirms Freedom, Responsibility, and the Universality of Science

In light of recent high-profile cases of scientific misconduct, the General Assembly of the International Council for Science (ICSU) reaffirmed the universal values that should guide the conduct of science. The assembly also explicitly recognized the key social responsibilities of the scientific community as laid out in a new booklet, *Freedom, Responsibility, and Universality of Science*, which will be made widely available to scientists across the world.

Ultimately the integrity of science depends on scientists themselves and all scientists have a duty to expose fraudulent information and/or misconduct. Given the unique position of scientists as the gatekeepers of new knowledge in today's knowledge societies, respect for these values is critically important if confidence in science is to be maintained.

The booklet asserts that “all scientists have a responsibility to ensure that they conduct their work with honesty and integrity; to ensure that methods and results are reported in an accurate, orderly, timely, and open fashion.” The booklet goes on to say that scientists are expected to be impartial, fair, respectful and considerate in relation to fellow human